

# BLACK SCIENCE

TM

4

RICK REMENDER  
MATTEO SCALERA  
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EDITOR

**RECAP:** Time is running out for Grant McKay. Stranded in a dimension where Europe is besieged by an invading army of high-tech Native Americans and himself fatally wounded, his only hope lies with his colleagues Ward, Shawn, and his testy boss Kadir, who ventured into the trenches to try and bring back a Shaman medicine man. Grant is bleeding out as the Pillar counts down to its next jump...

BLACK SCIENCE created by Rick Remender & Matteo Scalera.



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TO GET THROUGH A WAR,  
A MAN NEEDS SOMETHING  
BIGGER THAN HIMSELF  
TO FIGHT FOR.

# GWOOM

THE FATE OF PEOPLE  
HE CARES FOR.

THE STATE OF THE WORLD  
HE LEAVES BEHIND.

THE HONOR OF A PROMISE.

TELL THE  
JOKE AGAIN,  
SHAWN.

O-O-KAY...

A HUNDRED YARDS  
TO THE PILLAR.

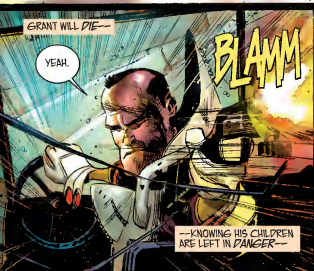
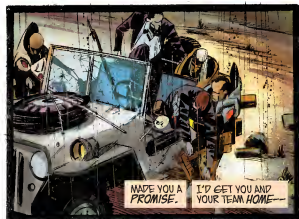
THROUGH A  
MINEFIELD.

THROUGH THOSE  
BOMBERS SHELLING.

IT WON'T STOP ME, GRANT.

I'M GONNA DO MY JOB.







I WON'T LET  
THAT HAPPEN.

TWUNKK

HOOF--!

DOESN'T MATTER WHAT  
THEY THROW AT ME.

I WON'T DIE HERE.

LIKE DAD--

--BLEEDING OUT IN  
A MUDDY GRAVE--

THAT'S NOT HOW  
THIS GOES. NOT--

WARD--  
INCOMING!

FSSSHH

SHAWN'S SCREAMS DROWNED OUT  
BY A HIGH-PITCHED WHISTLE--

DWOOOON

THE WORLD TUMPLES--

--ASS OVER NECK--

--MIXED WITH MY  
CONCUSSION--  
RESULT IS TOTAL  
DISTORTION--

LOUD THUMPING--  
REVERBERATING--  
WARRIOR RIDES  
HARD FOR SHAWN--

--THIS ONE  
SON OF A  
BITCH LEFT--  
WARRIOR--

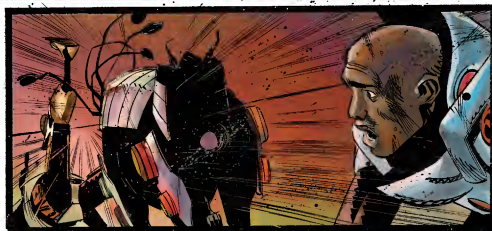


—THIS ONE LAST TEST.

YRASH!

GAKK--

SHWAPP



GRAB  
THAT LASER  
WATCHET.

ONLY THIRTY MORE  
FEET--LESS.

WE CAN MAKE IT.

MY SHOULDER'S  
DISLOCATED--  
CAN YOU CARRY  
HIM?

I'LL  
TRY.

OKAY I SEE THE  
PILLAR GLOWING, NOT  
MUCH FURTHER--

OH,  
JESUS...



TH—THEY WANT  
THE SHAMAN.  
GIVE THEM  
THE—

SHAWN,  
GO!

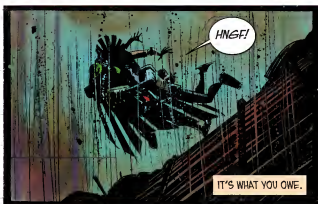
GET  
HIM TO  
GRANT!

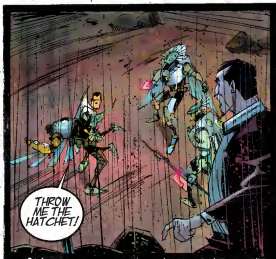
HOLD A  
GUN TO HIS  
HEAD—HE'LL  
GET THE  
IDEA!





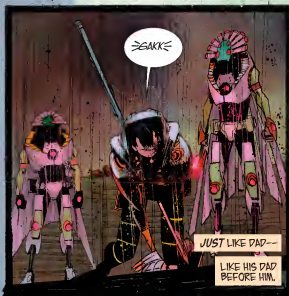




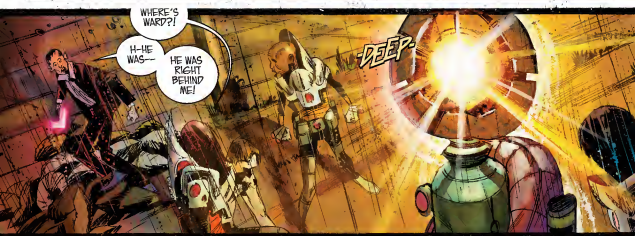


IT'S ALMOST FUNNY.  
I THOUGHT  
I COULD  
OUTRUN IT.















HMMH--?



ALL  
BETTER  
NOW?

CREW PULLED  
IT OFF. GOT A  
MEDIC. AN OLD  
SHAMAN.

HE DIDN'T  
WANT TO HELP  
AT FIRST.

NOT UNTIL  
HE SAW NATHAN  
AND PIA IN  
TEARS OVER  
YOU.



WHERE  
ARE  
THEY?!

ASLEEP  
NEXT  
DOOR.

SHAWN'S  
WITH  
THEM.



THEY  
KNOW  
YOU'RE  
OKAY.

LET  
THEM  
REST.

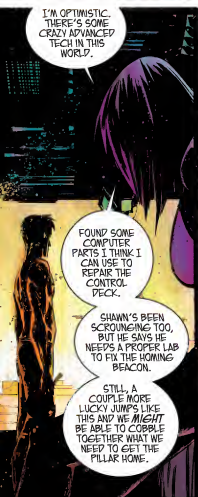
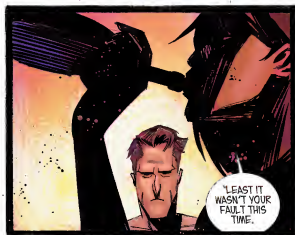
WE FINALLY  
JUMPED INTO A  
PLACE WHERE  
EVERYTHING ISN'T  
IMMEDIATELY  
TRYING TO KILL US.



THEY  
EVEN HAVE  
SCOTCH.

GONNA NEED  
IT TOO, BECAUSE  
HERE'S WHERE  
WE'RE AT...

THE  
KIDS--!











"NOW  
WE'RE IN  
CHARGE."

IT'S INCREDIBLE,  
I'VE SEEN SO MANY  
NEW SPECIES I  
LOST COUNT!

WE'RE //  
PIA... FIRST  
CONTACT!

FOR OUR  
DIMENSION  
ANYWAY.

YOU SHOULD  
GET SOME SLEEP.  
MIGHT BE THE  
LAST TIME WE SEE  
A BED FOR A  
WHILE.

NATE  
NEEDS HIS  
INSULIN.

BUT I  
FORGOT.

MOM TOLD  
ME TO BRING  
SOME WITH.

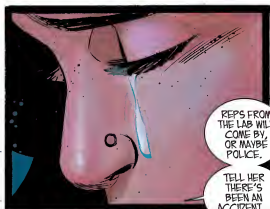
DIDN'T THINK  
WE'D STAY AT  
THE LAB VERY  
LONG.



SHE MUST  
HAVE FOUND  
THE INSULIN  
BY NOW.

PROBABLY  
CALLING DAD AT  
THE LAB FOR  
HOURS.

CALLING  
AGAIN AND  
AGAIN...



REPS FROM  
THE LAB WILL  
COME BY,  
OR MAYBE  
POLICE.

TELL HER  
THERE'S  
BEEN AN  
ACCIDENT...



YOU'LL BE BACK  
WITH HER SOON.  
YOU AND NATE  
BOTH.

REBECCA  
GRANT AND I  
BUILT THE PILLAR.  
WE CAN FIX IT.

WE'LL ALL  
BE HOME AGAIN  
SOON ENOUGH.



TRUST  
ME. IT'S  
GONNA BE FINE.



HELL, THEY  
PROBABLY  
DON'T EVEN  
NEED ME!

YOUR  
DAD AND  
REBECCA ARE  
GENIUSES.

THEY'LL  
FIX IT.

MY DAD'S A  
SELF-OBSESSED  
ASSHOLE.



SELF-OBSESSED?  
THE WORK HE'S  
DOING, THE PILLAR,  
IT'S GOING TO  
CHANGE THE  
WORLD!

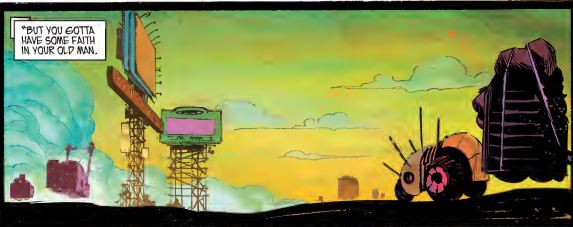
I DROPPED  
OUT OF  
COLLEGE  
TO JOIN HIS  
TEAM!

HE'S A  
GOOD GUY, PIA--  
AND IT'S  
IMPORTANT WORK.

LOOK...  
I KNOW THIS  
HAS BEEN  
SCARY.



\*BUT YOU GOTTA  
HAVE SOME FAITH  
IN YOUR OLD MAN.



"HE KNOWS WHAT  
HE'S DOING."





THEY'RE  
HERE.

YOU'RE  
CERTAIN?  
AND THEY'RE  
GRAY?



ALIVE AND  
WELL.

THEY'RE  
WITH HIM.

HURRY,  
THEN. GET  
THEM  
BACK!



DON'T  
WORRY.

THEY  
WON'T BE  
MAKING  
ANYMORE  
JUMPS.



"WE'LL ALL BE  
TOGETHER AGAIN  
SOON."

TO BE CONTINUED

# FROM PILLAR TO POST



Welcome back. Or maybe not, given the events of this issue.

I realize that things probably look pretty bad for our cast, but Grant and his Anarchist League of Scientists have really just begun their long journey to the center of the Onion, and I've only just begun putting these nice people through the wringer.

This cast grows as a family and some develops in some fairly unexpected ways over the next ten issues. I'm experimenting here with some things that I haven't done before, structure character-wise, and am excited to be underway.

We've received hundreds of letters from you in the last couple of months, and we'll try to fit them all in eventually. Your support means the world to us all. Primarily it means we'll be able to get to tell all of these exciting stories we have in mind. That's not something any of us take for granted. Thank you.

We selected our letters column title, and it was one that was sent in by quite a few people. So we're going to award our high-five, or whatever it is we promised, to this first gentleman. That's just the way the world works. I'm not in charge; I'm just a guy doing his job, okay?

Hi

So just finished reading issue two and I'm totally hooked. Just thought the first line from page 1 might be a good name for the letters page:

'FROM PILLAR TO POST'

Brian L.

P.S. I'm really glad I caught the horrible auto correct from my phone that replaced 'black science' to 'black scones' in the subject line of this email.

RR - The answer was right there under our noses all along. Thanks for pointing out the obvious, Brian. I guess you did a good job? As for

your AutoCorrect, it's right and we're wrong. "Black Scones" was actually the original title of the series but my phone AutoCorrected it to **BLACK SCIENCE**. Technology is our enemy. Be wary, and stay vigilant.

Okay, guys. That was freaking awesome! I was inspired to write my first letter to an editor because **BLACK SCIENCE** was right up my alley. I bet you guys got tons of letters but maybe I'm not late to suggest a letter section name: 'Quantum Pillar Queries' Cool, that was fun and thanks for creating **BLACK SCIENCE**.

Travis

RR - You gave it all you had, Travis. Fought like a champion and you never once questioned the road you were walking. You're like a samurai protector to all men. But we're not selecting your generous contribution. Walk on, champion samurai. Towards the horizon!

Hello, sir

Just a few things:

1) Your letter at the end of **BLACK SCIENCE** #1 is so inspirational to me. The whole thought of creating worlds is awesome. Thank you for that it lit a fire in me.

2) Your work on *Uncanny X-Force* was awe-inspiring. I can't remember the last time I felt that way after reading a story. I read that final arc in one go, after they were all released in trade. Genius!

3) I'm a fan for life.

4) Question: any advice on crafting a good original story?

Thank You,  
Nick R.

RR - The best thing to do when crafting any story is to start with your characters. Write about them, who they are, what they love and hate, where they came from, and anything you can think of. Write pages and pages worth. Get to know them in the story will sort of tell itself.

Hey, fellas,

Loved the first few issues and am eagerly anticipating the next. This one is too easy, but perhaps "Notes From The Lab"? How about "Reality Blights"? "Postcards From Another Dimension"? Yeah I know, these are pretty lame so don't use them. However, keep dabbling in that black science for me because this book is awesome!

Matt O.

RR - If you knew they were lame why did you send them? Matt, we used to have so much in common. I'd begun to think that there was something almost kismet about our relationship. You just sort of got me. I felt safe around you. But I don't know any more after this, Prom might be off.

To the whole **BLACK SCIENCE** crew,

I hope you appreciate what I have to do to read your book.

As you are aware issues #1 and #2 of your books sold out worldwide. Added to that the fact that I live in Australia (a small market for comics), which makes it very hard to get my hands on books like **BLACK SCIENCE**. I was forced to turn to online shopping to find them. I paid \$30 (USD) for each book to be shipped to me.

Having just finished issue #2 I can honestly say that I don't regret spending a single cent. I'm hoping that I won't have to do this for issue #3 (for my sake, not yours) but would be more than willing to do so if required.

Keep up the great work and be sure to have a few extra issues sent to Australia next month.

Paul

RR - Dear God, Paul. I don't know what to say. I guess I can't continue my foolish joke ranting now. Happy? In all sincerity, thank you for the support. I'm sorry that you had such a difficult time getting copies.

## CALLING ALL DIMENSIONAULTS!

Send comments, questions and distress signals to  
[WriteRemender@gmail.com](mailto:WriteRemender@gmail.com)! Mark letters "OK to print".

Hey, Rick!

I loved *Fear Agent*, so having BLACK SCIENCE around as a spiritual successor made me have to go out and get new pants! As for the letters page, how about "Fighting Electric Frogs Gazette" or even change it up every month with some other crazy animal ("Fighting Mongoose Times")?

Tommy M.

**RR - Tommy, you seem like a nice guy. You like *Fear Agent*, so I like you. I think that you're probably the life of the party. All your friends secretly wish they were like you. They think you are a man of charisma and adventure and would hate to hold you back from your personal war on childhood obesity.**

Hey, Rick and the BLACK SCIENCE crew,

This book rules! I'm loving every part of it. The story is awesome and Matteo's art is amazing. The first dimension was crazy, and I can't wait to see all the places Grant and his Anarchist League of Scientists will be thrown into. The tension between the characters coupled with these insane worlds they have to deal with is making this a very exciting read. I will be looking forward eagerly to each new issue. As for the letters page I think "Black Matter" has a nice ring to it. For a prize however, instead of a dune buggy, how about one of those giant frog heads with an electric tongue whip?!

Brad L.

**RR - Thanks, Brad. That was actually a really good name. Was one that we considering, too. But in the end we found something lacking. Something you might want to take a good hard look in the mirror and examine for yourself. Be strong for us.**

Hello, incredible team of BLACK SCIENCE,

Such an amazing two issues already and I'm very excited. My name's

Henrique and I'm writing from Brazil. I get my comics monthly from MidtownComics and what an amazing surprise BLACK SCIENCE turned out to be! I had no doubt that the combined efforts of such talented folk like Rick Remender, Matteo Scalera and Dean White would result in nothing less than awesomeness and after reading the first two issues I was knocked down on my feet, what an incredible story!

The characters are interesting too, their motivations, their beliefs, despite the gloomy depressive kind of behavior Grant has that reminded me of *Fear Agent*. Nonetheless what really impressed me are the infinite possibilities of scenarios and people that our Anarchist League of Scientists may and will encounter and the taste of these two issues was strange and wonderful. Now I hope to learn more about Grant's black science and hope that Remender is done hurting the poor bastard. Great chemistry between the creative team, excellent title!

Henrique

**RR - Thanks! That's all I can think to say.**

Amazing! The gritty, yet electric, art is phenomenal, and the story is captivating. I already cannot wait to get my hands on the next issue. What secrets are behind the Pillar and its sabotage? Seriously, what is Kadir's problem? Will Grant ever catch a break? And what's up with Mr. Block? So many questions!!! And there are only so many pages to unravel the mysteries. Keep up the great work, and though I didn't quite scream "MORE BLACK SCIENCE BLARGH!", I did manage to politely request it.  
Pietro

**RR - Good thing you didn't scream that. Aunt Sandy is having problems sleeping. We didn't want to tell you, we know close you two are. She's not feeling well. So, yeah, no screaming.**

Dear Rick, Matteo, Dean, Rus and Sebastian

Please charge more for BLACK SCIENCE. My LCS is a smaller shop and was shorted on their order. If you doubled the price, it would still be less expensive than what I paid online. Even an extra dollar might (probably not) eliminate some of my competition! I wouldn't even mind because this is one of the only titles I read more than once. (How could you not!?)

Rick has this rare ability to create characters with whom we can immediately empathize. We've seen it a bunch of times before, BLACK SCIENCE follows suit, and *Deadly Class* is another fantastic example.

Thanks for all of your great work!

Aaron G.

P.S. RIP Jen.

**RR - Again, I'm sorry to hear when people have to pay more than cover price for the book. Were getting 2nd and 3rd printings out as quickly as we can so hopefully the shortage situation will be rectified soon. And thank you for the support.**

That's it for this month. Next issue begins the real nutty business. Issues #5 and #6 take the velocity of issue #1 and ramp it up a few notches. No, I'm not going to make that Spinal Tap joke here. I'm not an asshole.

Anyway, man, wait till you see what Matteo and Dean are turning in for next issue. Their jive is mighty and right.

See you in 30.

*Rick*





# NEXT MONTH

## BLACK SCIENCE

5

RICK REMENDER  
MATTEO SCALERA  
DEAN WHITE



\$3.50



**GET IN ON THE START OF SOMETHING MASSIVE!**

**A HERO'S LAST AND  
GREATEST ADVENTURE  
LIES ON A DISTANT  
WORLD!**



**IT ALL BEGINS  
THIS MARCH!**

**MILLARWORLD**

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I AM NOTHING

007

**ZERO™**

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# BLACK SCIENCE



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RATED **M** / MATURE